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# LETTER DATED 25 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Moroccan Government wishes to call the attention of the members of the Security Council to the serious discrepancies noted from a reading of the draft resolution currently being prepared on Western Sahara in connection with the settlement plan.

Firstly, this draft conceals the true reasons for the impasse in the process, the principal one being the refusal of the other party to participate in identifying a large number of applicants registered in good and due form.

The Secretary-General had, however, duly drawn the attention of the Security Council to this situation in his report of 24 November 1995 (S/1995/986), and had proposed a solution to circumvent that refusal. A draft resolution had been prepared in order to endorse the proposal of the Secretary-General.

As you know, however, having been distributed in provisional form and adopted in informal consultations, the draft was abandoned in response to the demands of those who were blocking the process, although they had no right to dictate the rules to be followed for the identification process.

The draft resolution makes no mention, moreover, of the achievements of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), such as the completion of the phase of registration of candidates and the consequent obligation of the Identification Commission towards all those whose applications had been registered in good and due form, which consists in proceeding with their identification without discrimination between those listed in the 1974 census and those who are not so listed.

My Government readily understands the need to emphasize the progress achieved in order to justify the extension of the mandate, an extension which we all desire, but it considers that the Council had the duty to indicate clearly to the Secretary-General and to his Acting Special Representative the measures to take in order to ensure the resumption of the process and its implementation.

Instead of that, the draft appears to take liberties with the settlement plan and gives directives to the Secretary-General without defining the legal framework for his action, which remains the settlement plan.

Lastly, we note with surprise that this draft introduces elements which are quite incompatible with the settlement plan, since many of its paragraphs are based on the question of contacts.

The Security Council, being aware that those contacts, officially described by our Government as "contacts with a part of the Saharan population and our lost sons with the aim of inducing them to return to the motherland", were not part of the settlement plan, should refrain from mentioning them in its resolutions, as the draft resolution would do.

Unfortunately, we note not only that the draft resolution being circulated contains references in several paragraphs to those contacts, but also that the references go far beyond the true scope of the contacts and the genuine signal of progress which the Council wishes to transmit as a justification for the extension of the mandate of MINURSO.

The Moroccan Government, which cannot reconcile itself to such provisions, wishes to appeal to the wisdom of the Council in order to ensure that the other party's desire for publicity does not outweigh the desire of the Council to comply with the settlement plan and to apply the measures available to it in order to ensure that the established rules are respected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to the members of the Security Council and to have it issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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